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Volume 12, Number 50



CITY NEWS

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September 18 - September 24, 1996

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THE DANGERS OF LABELING CHILDREN

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A YOUNG FATHER STANDS UP TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES

Page A-5

CHANEYFIELD SEEKS TO DEDICATE NEWARK STREET TO RON BROWN

NEWARK—Councilwoman Gayle Chaneyfield wants Center Street, in front of the soon-to-be-completed NJ Performing Arts Center, to be renamed for the late former Commerce Secretary Ron Brown who was killed in a plane crash last Spring.

"Ron Brown lives on in his lasting contributions to his country. He had the vision to understand that our stake in the American dream could be enhanced by our participation in the global business arena," Chaneyfield says.

Chaneyfield feels that the thoroughway in front of the Performing Arts Center is the perfect place for a dedication to Brown because NJPAC is a monument to forward thinking, economic development, and a community resurgence through commerce.

"He knew that, ultimately, we would not benefit or reach our potential if our brothers and sisters in the Far East, Africa, Russia and elsewhere were economically under-developed and under-utilized. He realized that American economic success would be hollow if we did not strengthen and develop our alliances by strengthening our allies. He knew that we had a stake in each other's dreams of progress. Newark, of all places, should do this," Chaneyfield said.

The International Minority Business Corporation and the PSEG is hosting a memorial luncheon for Ron Brown on Monday, September 30.

MAYA ANGELOU TO HEAD NCNW

SPRING LAKE, NJ—Dr. Maya Angelou, poet laureate, will head the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. in looking towards the new millennium with a focus on training, education, and new generations of women leaders and preparing them for community leadership.

Under the leadership of Dr. Angelou, NCNW will establish the National Centers for African-American Women and the Dorothy I. Height Leadership Institute in Washington, DC.

COOPER NAMED 'VICTORY '96' CAMPAIGN CHAIR

TRENTON—Democrats from around the state gathered in Trenton on Monday in a strong show of support as State Democratic Chairman Tom Byrne announced the selection of Cardell Cooper, Mayor of East Orange, as Chairman of the "Victory '96." Part of the New Jersey Democratic Coordinated Campaign, "Victory '96" aims to elect the entire slate of democratic candidates up for local, state and national elections.

Named as co-chairs were New Jersey's democratic Congressmen: Representatives Rob Andrews, Frank Pallone, Donald Payne, Robert Menendez and Robert Torricelli. Senators Bill Bradley and Frank Lautenberg also agreed to serve as members of the "Victory '96" steering committee.

In accepting the responsibilities of the chair, Cooper stressed the importance of re-electing President Clinton. Cooper referred to the President as "one who is willing and capable of building a bridge to the future."

President Clinton personally picked Cooper for the role of chair. Cooper said, "I am humbled and honored to have been asked to chair the Victory '96 campaign in New Jersey."

Cochran: It's time to soar

by Charli Holmes

ATLANTA, GA.—"Don't dream chicken dreams...you are eagles," Johnnie Cochran said above the loud applause that rang inside the Hyatt Regency Hotel, during his keynote address at the closing ceremony of the Blacks in Government (BIG) National Training Conference, in Atlanta, GA.

Johnnie Cochran, one of the nation's leading authorities on criminal justice and well known for the well-known O. J. Simpson trial, spoke candidly about African American individual and community responsibility.

Cochran emphasized how organizations like BIG, have a responsibility and obligation to help others less fortunate, pulling others up by their boot straps and passing the baton to the next generation—especially young people.

Cochran reiterated the need for African Americans to get out and vote. Only a small

percentage of black Americans vote.

"Vote for a candidate that embraces your vision," he said. He made reference to the comments made during the Republican convention. "What do they mean by the good old days. In those days blacks, immigrants and women had no rights. Jews, Catholics and the elderly had problems. The good old days were not so good for the majority, the good old days were good for only a few."

Paralleling the similarities of 1896 and 1996, he spoke on how blacks suffered setbacks in achieving economic power, social and political humiliation; church burnings and bombings.

"The church has been the most enduring institution in our society. If I want for the black church many of you wouldn't be sitting here today. For someone to burn our place of worship shows insensitivity beyond calculation," he added.

He stressed the need for black leadership to speak courageously against racial injustice. "Think about our ancestors who went before us and gave their best for our freedom to speak out," he said.

Leaving the audience of over 4,000 federal and state employees from all over the nation, Cochran said a final note of hope and encouragement. "He told them to remember God and don't give up because African Americans have a rich heritage and should rise to the occasion and spread their wings like majestic eagles."

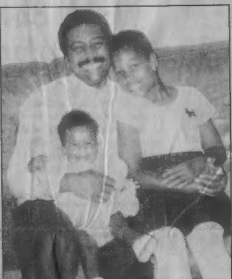
"You may have gone to chicken schools, you may have a chicken job, and work for chicken supervisors, but remember you are all eagles. And when we recognize who we really are only then will justice be served."



Attorney Johnnie Cochran

Hamm puts life on the line

by Terrence L. Dixon



Larry Hamm and his two daughters

"I'm a little weak, a little tired and I may have lost a little weight," mumbled Lawrence Hamm who is purging his body from solid food until the state decides on how it will equal funding between its poor and rich school districts.

Originally, Hamm decided to fast until September 30 when the state would pass legislation on school funding. However, the deadline has been extended to the end of the year.

Larry, as everyone calls him, began the fast last Wednesday to oppose current legislation under consideration in

which urban school districts stand to lose millions. "This [the bill] can have a negative effect on the schools in those districts, and ultimately, it is the children in them who will suffer," Hamm muses.

"Intelligent, very analytical with profound thought and a deep conviction of faith for his cause to empower people of color to be responsible all times for their quality of life," Steve Jones, president of Metropolitan Educational Ministry, describes Hamm. "Larry has been fighting a good fight since high school."

Although this is his first fast, Hamm at 42, has the state's ears at attention. The name Larry Hamm has meant something here in New Jersey for a long time. He became the youngest school board member in the United States by serving on Newark's Board of Education in 1971. As a Princeton University student, he led a South African anti-

aparthid movement which caused Princeton to withdraw its investments there. He is the former chairman for the NJ Rainbow Coalition and is now chairman of the NJ Million Man March Committee and the People's Organization for Progress.

Jones lauded Hamm as one of the few people effectively doing something about the mis-education of African-Americans and Hispanics. "Lawrence is willing to die for saving our children," Jones remarked. "What are other political and community leaders willing to do to save the children? The other side to this is the state and other politicians willing to let Larry die?"

Governor William Bradley's statement stating, "Anybody in state as a result of a decline in enrollment. This year, we are spending over \$382 million in state aid for Newark school districts. No student will be denied the

and he or she is entitled to receive for a thorough and efficient education. In fact, for the first time our core curriculum standards will assure a high quality education for every student whether they live in an urban or a suburban school district."

Yet, the state and Hamm have a different definition of "thorough and efficient" education.

"It has been said that desperate times require desperate measures—I can think of no measure as desperate—or as valiant—as the one Mr. Hamm has announced..." Assembly Guard Stanley (28th District), who is offering an alternative funding bill, said.

Painstakingly, Hamm continues to work every day so that he can take care of his family, yet he vows to last longer if necessary.

"He's not the most powerful person. He's just the most committed," explained Jones of Hamm's actions.

NJ politicians meets with Clinton/Gore re-election team

by Myra A. Thomas

NEW BRUNSWICK—Senior political representatives with the Clinton/Gore re-election campaign recently met with New Jersey's African-American political leadership.

Held at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in New Brunswick, the September 7 meeting included representatives from New Jersey's African-American Political Alliance, Democratic National Committee (DNC), "Victory '96," campaign and community and labor leaders.

Based in Newark, the New Jersey African-American Political Alliance is comprised of current and former African-American political leaders from across the state. Congressman Donald M. Payne chairs the Alliance.

Representative Payne said, "It's clear that we must increase African-American voter registration and turnout, otherwise we risk being at the mercy of Newt and his Republican

Congress for another two years."

Alan Wheat, National Deputy Campaign Manager for the re-election of Clinton/Gore, added, "New Jersey's African-Americans and New Jersey's political, in general, is positive in this presidential election. The political reality is that African-American voters nationally are important to a Clinton/Gore victory."

Wheat referred to the divisive and extremist nature of the Republican agenda, while highlighting the President's "policy of inclusion." What also noted that while the issue of affirmative action does "resonate in the African-American community, all issues, the economy, jobs, low inflation, are important to African-American voters."

Various members of the DNC, the party's coordinating arm, were also in attendance, including Minyon Moore political director, Harold Gist and Dan Jones African-American outreach

coordinators.

Numerous New Jersey NAACP representatives in addition to the Chairman of the Democratic State Committee Tom Byrne, Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer, State Senator and Woodbridge Mayor James McGreevey, and others were present at the meeting.

Described as a "working session" closed to the press, the various leaders discussed issues of the economy, job creation, and welfare with the group of over 100 attendees.

"The Democratic party has always believed in the power of inclusion and the ability of organized communities to work together to make a difference, stated Cooper.

"This year, we are committed to acting strongly on that belief to turn the tide of national politics away from the harsh realities of the Republican agenda toward President Clinton's bridge-building vision for the future," Cooper added.



East Orange Mayor and Victory '96 campaign chairman for the Clinton/Gore race Mayor Cardell Cooper, and Congressman Donald M. Payne (c) talking with a TV reporter from Channel 12 outside Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in New Brunswick.

Photo: Myra Thomas

Critics say Poritz must withdraw from major cases

School funding, affirmative action, and death penalty will be decided by Supreme Court

by Kelly Howard



Chief Justice Poritz addresses an audience at her swearing in July.

TRENTON—Despite a quiet first day in chambers, Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz is settling down to a large docket of controversial topics.

From determining whether African Americans are more likely to be sentenced to death, to finding equal funding for poor schools districts, the New Jersey Supreme Court, will address issues that will shape public policy for years to come.

Concealing an extraordinary moment in a routine, Poritz followed six justices into the Supreme Court's courtroom on September 5, to preside as chief justice for the first time.

Poritz, the first new chief justice in 17 years, is also the first woman to take the highest position in New Jersey's legal system. The former state attorney general was sworn in on July 10, replacing the late Robert N. Wilentz.

It remains to be seen whether the

court's direction will change under her leadership, but some of the issues that helped define Wilentz's court will re-emerge.

The last time the court considered the matter of school funding, it ordered the Legislature to close the gap in per-pupil spending between the richest and poorest school districts by the close of this month.

In a one-page order, released on September 10, the court decided to grant a three-month extension because the Legislature is "actively considering legislation."

Poritz, who had been involved in formulating the state proposal, did not participate in the case.

Critics of Poritz's appointment said she will need to rescue herself from too many important cases that she helped litigate as attorney general.

City News was informed that Poritz's office was off-limits to visitors, and she would not be speaking

with the press at this time. Other topics that face the court are Megan's law, and race and the death penalty. Using statistical data, lawyers will present the court with information to determine if New Jersey's death penalty is flawed and racist.

According to lawyers from the Office of the Public Defender, "It is 10 times more likely for a black person to get the death penalty than a white person."

New evidence facing the court is particularly compelling because it comes from the administrative arm of the judiciary, which does not represent the interests of the defense or the prosecution.

While the justices have upheld the constitutionality of Megan's law, the court will begin the lengthy process of determining what information can be released about or used to determine the danger of the sex offender.

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Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER 1996 TO APRIL 1997

WAYNE—William Paterson College's Center for Continuing Education presents "Issues and Ideas" at 7:30 p.m. at the Student Center. For more info call 201-995-2436.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

UNION—Discover the wonders of woodcraft at the September Senior Support Club Meeting at Union High School's Cafeteria at 3:30 p.m. For more info call 201-325-6503 or 908-964-0444.

MAHWAH—Brian Lehr, host of On The Line radio show will speak at Ramapo College at 3:30 p.m. For more info call 201-525-7413.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

MT. LAUREL—You're invited to attend a Roundtable Discussion entitled "Community Development: Where's the Funding?" at Commerce University from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more info call 609-482-9444.

SEPTEMBER 19 THRU 22

MORRISTOWN—The Sixth Annual Dodge Poetry Festival stresses poetry's role in everyday life at the Waterloo Village. For more info call 201-540-482 ext. 129.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

SCOTCH PLAINS—Learn how to invest for your future at the Scotch Plains Library at 7:15 p.m. For more info call 1-800-347-5018.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

EAST ORANGE—One day port of call for the Festival to Hunt's Landing. For more info call 201-266-8833.

ELIZABETH—Union County will hold POW/MIA Remembrance Day at Courthouse at 11:30 a.m. For more info call 908-527-4818.

MAHWAH—US Senator Bill Bradley and former NJ Governor Tom Kean to discuss "The Future of American Politics" at Ramapo College at 4:30 p.m. For more info call 201-525-7374.

SEPTEMBER 20 THRU 22

The Monmouth County Park System has scheduled an intermediate backpacking trip at New York's Catskill Mountains.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

tains. For more info call 908-842-4000.

SEPTEMBER 20 TO OCTOBER 25

CRANFORD—Union County College's Tommaso Art Gallery will feature the art work of sculptor Jenny Krasner. For more info call 908-709-7155.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

EDISON—The Thomas Edison Toastmasters International returns to Edison Public Library. For more info call 908-945-2536.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

STIRLING—The Fourth Annual "Country Fun Festival" will be held at the Shrine of St. Joseph from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 908-647-0208.

SEPTEMBER 21 TO OCTOBER 19

CRANFORD—Union County College will offer Scholastic Aptitude Test prep courses from 8 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7690.

SEPTEMBER 21 TO DECEMBER 22

TRENTON—The New Jersey Museum announces that it will host the East Coast showing of "The Great Russian Dinosaurs." For more info call 609-292-6464.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

SOUTH PLAINFIELD—The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission will present a Music Festival and Picnic at South Plainfield Middle School front lawn from noon to 6 p.m. For more info call 908-753-4422.

MONTCLAIR—Umjia Networking Association presents a Family Celebration of Unity at Glen Park Field house from 2:07 p.m. For more info call 201-731-2971.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

SUMMIT—Summit Chorale invites experienced choral singers to audition at 10:15 p.m. at Christ Church. For more info call 201-467-1454.

TRENTON—The New Jersey State Council on the Arts begins three public hearings to discuss arts plan, at Glassboro Center for the Arts at Rowan College from 7 to 10 p.m. For more info call 609-292-6130.

Jemmott named associate VP for graduate studies at WPC

WAYNE—Dr. Nina Jemmott has been appointed associate vice president for graduate studies, research and academic administration at William Paterson College in Wayne. Jemmott, who has served as assistant vice president for graduate studies and research since 1994, will coordinate the college's move toward university status. In addition, she will take on additional responsibilities for general administration in academic affairs, leadership development, faculty development, and faculty and student research. Jemmott began her career in higher education as a basic skills specialist at Bloomfield College in 1976 coming at WPC in 1976 as academic coordinator and assistant director of the college's EOF program. From 1980 to 1984 she served as director of WPC's Center for Academic Support. From 1984 to 1994, Jemmott held leadership positions at Essex County College, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Seton Hall University.



Cathy Tucker (l) accepts Fleet's "Volunteer of the Month" plaque from John Tugwell, president and CEO of Fleet Bank, N.A., as her husband Clayton Tucker, Pop Warner's business manager looks on.

Tucker named Fleet employee of the month

PLAINFIELD—Recognizing her contributions to the Plainfield Pop Warner Booster Club, Fleet Bank recently named Cathy Tucker, a Plainfield resident as "Volunteer of the Month." Tucker serves as vice president of Pop Warner, a football and cheer leading league in the Plainfield area. On behalf of Tucker, the bank will make a \$1,000 donation to the Pop Warner Booster Club. Tucker is a control clerk for official checks in Fleet's

accounts reconciliation processing department in South Plainfield.

"With 268 boys and girls, aged five to 14, many from broken homes, the Booster Club serves as a support system which offers the children tutoring and an environment in which to learn values, discipline and sportsmanship," states Tucker, who with five children of her own, still finds time to provide emergency care for league children in need.

Woodson Foundation to host Jazz and Dance Party

NEWARK—The Newark-based Carter G. Woodson Foundation and Ayanna Productions are sponsoring "A Jazz and Dance Party" at the Peppermin Entertainment Complex in Orange on Friday, September 20.

The evening will begin at 7 p.m.

and feature the music of Jazz Saxophonist Bradford Hayes. Showtimes are at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. A free buffet will be available from 7 to 9 p.m. For advance tickets at \$10 each, call 201-242-0500. If purchased at the door, tickets will be \$15.

Narozanick receives WHCLIST Award



FREEHOLD—The Monmouth County Freeholder Theodore J. Narozanick was recently honored as the recipient of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce's (WHCLIST) 1996 Local/County Elected Official Award by the Monmouth County Library Commission. WHCLIST grew out of a conference held at the White House in 1979, and again in 1991, which brought together more than 700 library supporters, government officials, lay citizens and library professionals to formulate library policies to lead the nation into the 21st Century.

Donations needed for war memorial

WASHINGTON, DC—The Black Patriots Foundation is working to build the Black Patriots Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC, to honor the more than 5,000 African Americans who served in the Revolutionary War.

The organization however, needs financial support in constructing the

monument, because federal funding is not available. Donations can be sent to The Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation at 1612 K Street, N.W., Suite 1104, Washington, DC 20006-2802 or call 1-800-888-9811.

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Evan Flynn

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YES NO

Is it important for you to know what is happening in your churches, schools, civic & social organizations, and city government and its agencies?

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EDITORIAL

Some things never change

Fourteen years ago when *City News* hit the community, rap music had not quite emerged from inter-city basement parties, park stages, and "underground" shows. Mainstream society disliked this new urban music of angry young men and women who planned violent street life and who "dissed" each other. Fourteen years ago, people wanted the music to remain just a fad because it arguably influenced so many of our youth to live a negative life and kill each other. Many people warned that it could encourage rapid phenomenal effects for the next generation.

Now, 14 years later, *City News* has witnessed rap's evolution into the pop phenomenon of hip hop. As guessed, with the continuance of volatile imagery and gangsterism in the music, genocide is now a painful reality. Our young men and women today hold many of the gangster-like, mad-at-world hip hop figures as their number one role models and as their interpretation to reality.

Unfortunately, we've published many tragic stories of youngsters whose negative decisions were influenced by their role models.

Despite the fact that many hip hop artists have adopted a more positive message of entertaining, many of the most famous, influential, and brilliant artists are still vividly expressing violence. Because so many young lives have been lost since 1982 as a result of the influence of rap music, we know that this indigenous black music needs to change. It is laudable that artists such as the legendary KRS-ONE and new artists such as the Furious 5 are using their talents to end genocide. Yet, when news such as 2Pac (Furious Shakur) being shot several times for the second time, and Biggie Smalls' house being raided for illegal guns permeate the media, there is danger of the music catalyzing more genocide.

It is time for hip hop artists to realize that they must use their influence wisely. They must stop being violent and use their talents to focus on other elements in society. Like it or not, hip hop has a strong hold on our youth. However, its artists can use their music to influence our youth to supersede the negatives in society to become progressive. After 14 years, *City News* would like to publish triumphal stories of those in the hip hop world.

Same old game in 'reforming' Newark schools

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to Rev. Reginald T. Jackson's article dated August 14. I must take issue with Rev. Jackson's article. As a Newark homeowner, taxpayer and parent of a 14-year-old son who attends Newark school, and a community activist, I was disappointed in Jackson's comments. However, he is entitled to his opinion. This is my opinion.

The state appointed Dr. Beverly H. Hines to the Newark district approximately one year ago. Many of us had high expectations of the new State administration. We prayed that she and her state team would set an example to show the country that in unfortunate cases where the state had to seize control of a failing district, the takeover could be successful.

We thought that finally meaningful parental involvement would be a fact, not a buzz word. We thought that employees who wanted to work would finally have that opportunity. In including us in the process, we knew that our children would be successful. To date that has not happened.

Like the Newark district administration, I personally was excited about the possibilities and invited Dr. Hall and her staff to appear on *Parent Notebook*, a local cable show I hosted in August 1995. Without question, Dr. Hall is a very capable administrator and the State gave her an excellent opportunity to successfully turn Newark school district around.

Believed in 1995 that Dr. Hall, or whomever they appointed to this position, would have the ability to make the change to make the changes that needed to occur in this district. After all, it took more than 30 years with the help of the state, to become a failing school district. Dr. Hall was aware of the challenges and the consequences.

We knew, Rev. Jackson, that people would be fired. Specifically, we thought those administrators whose responsibility it was to closely supervise staff members who were not adequately performing their duties should have been fired. Most of the staff who were fired, were lower level working class people, whose salaries were not \$50,000 to \$100,000, but \$15,000 to \$35,000. Most of these people were single parents who had to feed and send their children to the Newark and send their children to the Newark and send their children to the Newark.

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by Bernard Percy, M.A.

A teacher had a very, very successful year working with one of her classes, a Middle School Social Studies class. The class results on the yearly achievement test were outstanding, and the special projects the class produced were exceptional. The Principal was very impressed and highly commended the teacher. The teacher then thanked the Principal but told him it wasn't very difficult. After all they were an intellectually gifted class.

The Principal knew that the class was not identified as gifted and that the students had an average academic record. He asked the teacher why she believed they were gifted. She pulled out a piece of paper with the names of her students, next to the names were numbers such as 139, 143, and so on. When the Principal looked at the paper he realized what she had been referring to.

The paper did not give the students' IQ scores, as the teacher had thought, they indicated their locker numbers. The teacher had labeled the students in that class as gifted. As a result, she had very high standards and expectations for what they could

and should accomplish, and they did achieve far beyond what others could have expected. I wonder how that class would have done if their locker numbers were in a range of 80 to 100. Would the teacher have labeled them and would her expectations and standards for the class have been lowered? Probably so.

In the above example, a very positive label was attached to the students. What happens when negative labels are attached to students. When a child is identified, no matter how incorrectly, as having Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Dyslexia, Reading or Math Development Disorder, or any of a host of other negative labels, that child becomes branded and the expectations and standards of what that student can accomplish become greatly diminished. Educators begin to look for and "find" the reasons why the student was given that label, whether those reasons truly exist or not.

One of the great dangers in labeling students is that teachers tend to fall into the correct solution to the correct problem, and fail to find the correct

FROM CAPTOL HILL

Black Civil War troops earn 'glory'

by Askia Muhammad

A couple of weeks ago I was trying to convince a white black man that actor Denzel Washington's greatest performance was in the Civil War epic, *Glory*. Despite the fact that Denzel won a much deserved Oscar for Best Supporting Actor in 1989 for his role, my friend was unconvinced.

Maybe my friend felt like I, Ford Douglass, a black militant abolitionist who, after the Dred Scott decision, said in 1858, "I can have this government without being disloyal, because it has stricken down my manhood and treated me as a saleable commodity. I can join a foreign enemy and fight against it, without being a traitor because it treats me as an alien and a stranger." Such contempt of this country and her institutions is not uncommon in some circles of black thinking these days, just as it was in those days.

While I date much of the anger I hear expressed by impatient blacks today, I am proud of the 180,000 blacks who fought for their freedom on the side of Union troops in the United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.) and the 30,000 more who manned ships and boats. I am proud of the quarter of a million other men and women—like Harriet Rose Tubman—who labored for the Army and Navy as teamsters, nurses, cooks, pilots, pioneers, spies, and scouts.

Setting issue priorities for your local candidates

by Barry C. Alford

We, as a people, helplessly allow our local candidates to dictate to us what the important issues are. These issues are handed to them by their respective party apparatuses—the local office of the Democratic National Committee or the Republican National Committee. These issues are generic and bland. They are designed to present an image that appears to be virtuous but yet cannot be measured so that the individual espousing the rhetoric cannot be "nailed down" to precise accountability.

This year, let's do something unique. Why don't we decide on the issues and solicit candidates to commit to providing solutions. The biggest issue in our communities is that of jobs—the lack thereof—due to downsizing, lack of economic development via black entrepreneurship and old discriminatory practices of some of our oldest institutions. Provide your city council, state delegate and every congressional candidate with the following questions:

- ✓ For each major school system, hospital, utility, phone, power and light, gas or natural gas company, etc., university, college, city, county, police and fire department and the top three corporations headquartered in your respective geography please give the following status:
 - ✓ Number of hired laborers and what percent is black?
 - ✓ Number of clerical workers and what percent is black?
 - ✓ Number of managerial employees and what percent is black?
 - ✓ Number of key executives and what percent is black?
 - ✓ What percent of the procurement of these entities is done with black-owned businesses?
 - ✓ Which of these entities receive federal money and how much?
 - ✓ None of your candidates is going to

solution. How often are students labeled as having some learning problem, only to discover, sometimes years later, that their problems were caused by poor hearing or poor eyesight? How often are students labeled as having some psychiatric named affliction (such as ADD or developmental reading disorder) when the truth is that they are displaying mental or physiological phenomena caused by having hit a barrier to learning?

There is a Study Technology which is developed by L. Ron Hubbard, author, educator and humanitarian, and utilized by Applied Scholastics International to improve the quality of education worldwide. This technology identifies the three key barriers to learning that a student encounters by determining the mental or physiological phenomena a student is displaying.

For example, nervous hysteria is one of the potential symptoms of having skipped a misdiagnosis word. How often have students, displaying this symptom been labeled by a teacher as "perhaps having ADD?" From that

moment, the teacher will most likely find other "evidence" of ADD and perhaps even recommend that child be put on the destructive drug Ritalin.

One of the great tragedies of labeling is when a student accepts as being true—the label they are incorrectly tagged with—such as when they are placed in a class for students with learning disabilities. They begin to think, "I am learning disabled" then lower their expectations and believe in what they can accomplish.

Let's keep the attachment of negative labels to students having learning difficulties from becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. Let's take the viewpoint that a student with a learning problem has his one of the barriers to learning, and let's help him or her overcome that barrier by applying the correct technology as developed by L. Ron Hubbard.

For more information on the Study Technology, call Applied Scholastics International, 800-524-5397 or cover the Barriers To Study for yourself on the Internet site: <http://www.appliedscholastics.org>.

Without reservation I salute the African-American Civil War Memorial and its ongoing celebration in Washington.

It's ironic. The black man who told me he doesn't appreciate Denzel Washington's allegiance in *Glory*, said later, in the same conversation, that he has seen *The Godfather* film series maybe 100 times; practically memorizing it scene-for-scene. How is that a "thinking" black person can identify more strongly with *The Godfather*, an Italian criminal, than with American slaves who rose to take up arms for their own freedom absolutely boggles my mind.

Although it seems now that it should have been an automatic call to service, blacks had to overcome official opposition to wear the military uniform of their country. At the outbreak of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln's policy was governed by his political objective of preserving what he thought was fragile Union unity. Throughout 1861 and the first half of 1862, Mr. Lincoln was afraid that using black troops would alienate slave holding border states of Maryland, Delaware, and Missouri.

I agree with physician and black nationalist Martin Delany, and with abolitionist Frederick Douglass who urged the President that "the Union cause would never prosper till the war assumed an anti-slavery attitude, and the Negro was enlisted on the loyal side."

No jobs, no money, no black businesses leads to violence, crime, welfare, poor health conditions and community blight. The poor performance of the local institutions based right in our communities is the major reason for these problems—social and economic—where

endure.

Political leadership should be made to address these local and immediate problems. When are we going to start? Now, 1996, would be an excellent time. Don't let these candidates continue to perpetuate our ills with the logic that "as long as there are problems and the people are blind to the actual situation I can keep getting elected." Demand that they learn just what the actual situation is and hold them accountable for correcting the local ills. Those who cannot see and who are lost should not be allowed "to lead."

My modern-day militant brothers may call me a "patriot" (oh well, but given those same choices today—to stand by and as some said, "let the white man" fight his war, remaining a slave until the matter was decided, or to fight (at the risk of death) for my own Brown, and full the glorious martyr for the cause of the slave. Remember that in a contest with oppression, the Almighty has no attribute which can take sides with oppressors."

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The billion dollar decision

Dear Editor:

Minister Louis Farrakhan was denied acceptance of \$1 billion from Gadhafi. Brother Farrakhan champions our cause and speaks directly to the powers that be. There are some people who do not want to recognize him as our leader. It's time to "recognize" and "realize" before it's too late.

What we need is power (in all levels of existence). People Organized Working for Economic Rebirth, (POWER), and the only formula for power is wealth plus wisdom. The oppressors have been successful at keeping wealth from those of us who are wise and keeping those who are wealthy dead, dumb, and blind.

Brother Farrakhan has proven that he's teaching on a supreme knowledge, wisdom and understanding of reality, as it relates to all oppressed people here in America and abroad. As you can tell by the fruit it bears, you can tell a man by his words.

As America decides what to do with the offspring of her ex-slaves, here is an offering with the solutions to our problems. It is time for us to "solve" our problems. If a brother from the East comes to help in the cause of liberation for our people then All Praises Due to Allah (God)!

What is wrong with turning a negative into a positive? We need so much work in our communities. A billion dollars, plus a plan and program by our leader (who works with us and for us) is a new beginning for us in America. It will instill in us a desire to do itself (which would take a great load off of America). God bless the child who got it's own.

Since President Clinton is saying "Farewell to Welfare" is an opportunity for us to become united to change the conditions of our lives.

Kai Atha Niyonu

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YOUTHBEAT

Kids Kalendar

SEPTEMBER 18 TO OCTOBER 30
MIDDLETOWN—The Monmouth County Park System is offering its parent/child (2 to 3 years) program "Morning Song" at Tatum Park Holland Activity Center from 9 to 9:45 a.m. For more info call 908-842-4000.

SEPTEMBER 19 TO OCTOBER 31
COLTS NECK—The Monmouth County Park System is offering its parent/child (2 to 3 years) program "Morning Song" at Dobbs Activity Center from 11 to 11:45 a.m. For more info call 908-842-4000.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
NEW BRUNSWICK—Deadline to enroll for the Garden State Ballet presents Sunlight for children ages 6 and up. For more info call 212-382-4020.

SEPTEMBER 20 THRU 22
NEW YORK—The New Victory Theater presents Sunlight for children ages 6 and up. For more info call 212-382-4020.

SEPTEMBER 20 TO NOVEMBER 1
LINCOLN—The Monmouth County Park System is offering its parent/child (18 months to 2 years) program "Morning Song" at Thompson Park from 11 to 11:45 a.m. For more info call 908-842-4000.

SEPTEMBER 21 AND 28
NEWARK—The Garden State Ballet announces Fall Scholarship tryouts for boys and girls ages 7 to 12. For more info call 908-858-2550.

THRU SEPTEMBER 30
ROSELLE—The Roselle Free Public Library will host the Lincon County Teen Arts Touring Exhibit. For more info call 908-858-2550.

SEPTEMBER 1996 TO JUNE 1997
WESTFIELD—4-H is starting a Pet Club for first and second graders. For more info call 908-654-0951.

OCTOBER 5 AND NOVEMBER 23
NEW BRUNSWICK—Shooting Players' fall season of Saturday Classes in Dramatics begins. For more info call 908-842-4000.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication.

Double XXposure launches peer awareness program

Recording artists join forces to empower youth

NEW YORK—"The Double XXposure Peer Awareness Tour" is coming to a town near you!!! This is a stellar touring conference designed to show youth how to cope with all the negative situations that they all face every day.

According to tour organizers, the goal is to merge the minds of community activists, role-model entertainment/sports figures, with that of the students and come up with strategies and answers to the many programs that are making inner cities scarier to live in every day.

Up front on the roster for the tour are Shawnee Ranx (Select Records), Reggie Stepper (Rip It Records), JOGO (Rockchild),

N.Y.K.E. (LTC Records), Dominica (Elatio Ent) and M.A.V. (Strictly Streets Records).

The discussions will focus on a panel discussion, and question and answer session where the artists try to tackle social issues—safe sex, teen pregnancy, deadbeat dads, drug abuse, and gun violence—concerning young adults.

"We feel that our youth need to be fully aware of the impending dangers (in this society). Our responsibility as adults is to inform them," stated Double XXposure officials.

So far, the tour has visited Arts High School in Newark, El Faró Junior High School and Valley Wadleigh School in New York City.



Peer Awareness campaign participants (from l) Reggie Stepper, Harry D'Janite (double XXposure) Dominica, N.Y.K.E., Shawnee Ranx and Vernest Moore of Newark addressing students at Arts High School. Photo courtesy of Double XXposure

Enter the 1 Zone with WNET/Thirteen

NEW YORK—As a service and consideration to news Channel Thirteen has launched 1 Zone, a 30-minute weekly world news and current events issues show. 1 Zone is created to present the news in a context young people understand and which will make the news relevant to their lives.

Hosted by young journalists from Channel One News, 1 Zone premiered Sunday, September 8. The program is the latest addition to Channel Thirteen's new programming block for teenage viewers.

1 Zone correspondents will cover news where it is breaking, across the

country and around the world. From global conflicts on the international political stage and interviews with the world's most influential personalities and political leaders, 1 Zone will deliver substantive and thorough news reports to young adults like no other news show does.

"1 Zone is unlike any other news program—it not only holds the attention of its young viewers, but has broad appeal for parents who want to watch the news with their kids," says Ward Chamberlin, vice president and managing director of Thirteen's Broadcast Center. Check local listings for air dates.

The Mighty Ducks are back!



In Walt Disney Pictures' all-new live-action comedy D-3: The Mighty Ducks, Emilio Estevez reprises his role as Gordon Bombay, the Ducks' long-time hockey coach. This time around, the coolest team on ice has a new school and a new coach. But it's the same old Duck attitude that shines through as they face off against an upper class varsity team of tough hockey players who are determined to end their winning streak, and the studly school alumni, who threaten to revoke the Ducks' scholarships. Pictured above, Coach Orion (Jeffrey Nordling), (c) celebrates a victory on the ice with the Ducks.

Scholarships available from NJCPA Society

ROSELAND—The New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJCPA) is offering scholarships to high school seniors who intend to major in accounting or college.

Recipients will be chosen based upon their overall score on the NJCPA's Scholarship Awards Examination, which will be administered November 23 & 24. This exam is essentially a measure of general aptitude

skills rather than a test of accounting skills. Students do not have to be currently enrolled in accounting classes.

All applications must be postmarked by October 31. For exam applications, contact the high school Guidance Counselor or Business Department. For more information contact the NJCPA Office, at 908-226-4494 x241.

KFC awards program needs candidates

LOUISVILLE, KY—Kentucky Fried Chicken announces the second annual Colonel's Way Award, a national program celebrating the outstanding achievements of senior citizens. Bringing young and old together, the program encourages kids to think about how the elders in their lives have contributed to their community and society.

Named for KFC founder, Colonel Harland Sanders, the Colonel's Way Award recognizes persons 60 years of age or older who have made outstanding contributions to their communities in one of six categories: arts, business, community service, education,

family and sports. The top prize is \$10,000. The nominator of the grand prize winner also receives \$1,000. In addition, the other five category winners receive \$2,500 and their nominators receive \$500.

Anyone can nominate a senior 60 or older with a 250 words, or less, essay describing how the senior has made a significant contribution later in life. Essay deadline is January 17, 1997. For entry information and award program rules, send a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope to Colonel's Way Award, 200 E. Randolph Dr., 63rd floor, Chicago, IL 60601.

Nationwide search is on for outstanding youth volunteers

TRENTON—Many young people in New Jersey show their community spirit by volunteering to make their communities better places to live. This month, the search begins for the two who best exemplify that spirit—in the second annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Over the next two months, middle-level and high schools throughout New Jersey will have an opportunity to select their most community-minded students and nominate them for statewide recognition. Two of those students will be named New Jersey's top youth volunteers next February.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, sponsored by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), honor outstanding, self-initiated community service by young people throughout the U.S.

The program provides recognition to deserving students in local

schools, identifies the two best examples of community service by youth in each state (plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico), and culminates in the naming of America's top ten youth volunteers of the year next May.

Last year, the program drew applications from more than 7,000 young people across the nation. The 1996 honorees for New Jersey were Marc Freed-Pinnegar and Lauren Gaffney. Marc Freed-Pinnegar of Glenfield Middle School was recognized for establishing an electronic on-line Bulletin Board Service (BBS) to help his classmates track homework assignments. His BBS is available six hours every night, offering newsletters, homework assignments and class information for sixth-through eighth-grade students.

Lauren Gaffney from Governor Livingston Regional High School was recognized for forming "Kids CAN!" (The Kids Care AIDS Network) to help raise money and awareness to combat AIDS. Lauren designed a

special Kids CAN! version of the AIDS ribbon, sold through Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (which features it on the first anti-AIDS kids holiday greeting card). Lauren also publishes a newsletter and works with her peers nationwide.

"An independent survey of young people we commissioned last year told us that they don't have many community service role models," said Prudential Chairman and CEO Arthur Ryan. "So Prudential created this program with NASSP to recognize young people who have made contributions and to inspire others to follow their example."

Students interested in being considered for the awards should contact their school principal for an application form now. All applicants must be currently enrolled in grades 5 to 12 and must describe a self-initiated community service that has occurred, at least in part, since September 1995.

New admissions procedure under way at Rutgers

NEW BRUNSWICK—High school seniors interested in applying to Rutgers should meet with high school counselors now to obtain information about a new admissions procedure being implemented this fall. The new procedure will allow students to apply early with the guarantee that they will be considered for all the undergraduate divisions of their choice and receive early notification of the decision.

Under Rutgers' new admissions procedure, students who submit the completed application by December 15, will receive notification of their status by February 28, 1997. Late applicants will receive full consideration as long as space is available at each of the undergraduate colleges," said Jan Hodos, senior associate director of university undergraduate admissions.

Students interested in merit scholarships should apply for admission as soon as possible to ensure consideration for all awards for which they qualify. Rutgers offers a variety of university-wide merit awards, including the Presidential and James Dickson Carr scholarships and the Rutgers University Award for Academic Achievement. Students who qualify will be selected from the pool of applicants and no separate application is required. Interested students should contact their guidance counselors for information on these scholarships.

Rutgers application packets are available in the guidance offices of all New Jersey high schools. If applications are unavailable there, students can call Rutgers' Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 908-445-3770 to obtain applications and information.

East Orange students visit Ghana

EAST ORANGE—Eleven students and 10 adult chaperones are currently on a 10-day cultural visit to Akropong, Ghana, sister city to East Orange. The group departed on Thursday, September 12 and will return on Monday, September 23.

While in Akropong the students and their chaperones will stay in Accra, the capital of Ghana. Part of the itinerary includes scheduled visits to a

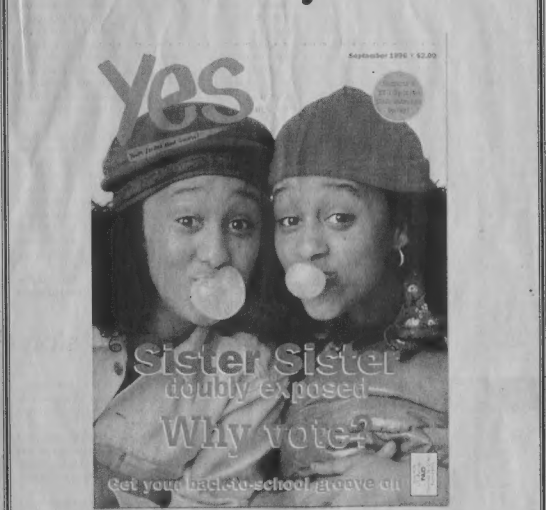
Ghanaian high school where students will spend the night in the school's dormitory, visits to various sites in Cape East and Kumasi, and meetings with elected and traditional leaders from the region.

The tour coincides with the Odwira Festival, an annual event of the Arkanas of Ghana whose Queenmother Nana Dokuia I will celebrate her 30th anniversary on the

throne. The group will present special anniversary greetings along with a gift to mark the occasion on behalf of Mayor Cooper.

Many of the student participants are members of the Black Male Female Institute, a program designed to improve self-esteem and to expand students' knowledge and awareness of African-American culture and traditions.

Ring in the fall with the Mowry twins



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LIFESTYLES

A young father stands up to his responsibilities

by Terrence L. Dixon

PATERSON—An inner-city drug dealer got his teenage girlfriend pregnant. The typical urban story would read that the father disappeared or didn't claim the child.

Well, if you give this street hustler a name—Melvin "Veda" Moses—then the story is lost. Moses, at 16, decided to stop selling drugs and get a legal job to take care of his pregnant girlfriend and the child when he/she was born. Actually, he stopped selling drugs before his girlfriend Alivia "Libby" Libby became pregnant. "Two months after I met her, I stopped hustling and started to work to make it good for her," Moses said.

Veda met Libby one night, three years ago, when she came to a drug dealer-ridden corner on Rosa Parks Boulevard to see her boyfriend. Her dad Moses became platonic friends until she was again single.

"At first," admits Moses, "I thought I was just going to have sex with her." However, that thought died after six months of "no play." Libby's worth to Veda upgraded from

"chicken head" (an urban term meaning promiscuous female). Though Libby was young, Veda claimed "she had a strong head on her shoulders and was really into school," which kept him around.

Near the end of their first year together, Libby showed Veda a document from the doctor saying that a 15-year-old girl was pregnant. He didn't understand until Libby explained to him that she used a false name so the doctor wouldn't inform her mother of her pregnancy.

"I felt stupid for not using protec-

tion," Moses said of learning that he would be a father. "But I felt good because it was my baby."

Veda couldn't contain the news from his mother who quickly reminded him of his childhood.

"I told him about the difficulty I had raising him," Dorothy Moses explained. "I couldn't give my children name-brand clothes nor the latest toys because their father wasn't there. Melvin knew what I went through being a single mother."

"I wanted to be different," Moses said. "To me, it's bad for kids not to have a father in life. My friends get girls pregnant and when the child is born they run away. If it's your baby, you should take care of it."

Veda began working at a florist company with his step-father, Albert Edwards, who has been a supportive fixture in his life.

When Alivia Moses was born, Veda was the happiest man in world. "I just wanted to do all the things a father should do. I don't always know exactly what to do, but I love her, talk to her, and discipline her," Moses said.

"It's not easy for me now because I didn't finish school and can't always do the things I use to," Moses explained saying Alivia's well-being comes first.

"Everybody needs a father at one point or another," says Moses and he intends to satisfy the need for the rest of his life.



Melvin Moses and his daughter Alivia enjoy some playtime.



*F*ashion that goes
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Above The Rest hat designed by Gloria Graham.

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NORDSTROM

Health Calendar

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

TRENTON—The Henry J. Austin Health Center and American Association of Retired Citizens are sponsoring Breast and Cervical Health Screenings from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 609-278-5920.

JERSEY CITY—Iglesia Christian Avamienlo Pentecostal is sponsoring a Teen Outreach and Prevention Program from 7 to 9 p.m. For more info call 201-432-7712.

PENNSGROVE—Memorial Hospital of Salem County is sponsoring Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Outreach, Education and Screening. For more info call 609-935-1000.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

UNION—SeniorHealth and the Township of Union are sponsoring an outdoor walking program for SeniorHealth members. Next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. at John's Restaurant. For more info call 201-325-6503.

PATERSON—Paterson Division of Health is sponsoring free immunization for children from 9 to 11 a.m. For more info call 201-881-3917.

ATLANTIC CITY—The City of Atlantic City Community Health Services is sponsoring a health fair at Uptown School Complex from 6 to 8 p.m. For more info call 609-347-5503.

WEST NEW YORK—The Hoboken Family Planning, Inc. is sponsoring "Good Health '96" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 201-963-0300.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Eric B. Chandler Health Center, UMDNJ is sponsoring free immunization for children 2 months and over from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more info call 908-235-6722.

UNION CITY—The Catholic Community Services-Hispanic Women Resource Center is sponsoring a workshop entitled "Health Risks within the Hispanic Community" from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more info call 201-866-3208.

LANCOCAS—Powhatan Renape Nation is sponsoring an American Indian Health Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more info call 609-361-4747.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

UNION—The next group meeting of the Mentor Park Mail Walkers is at 8:30 a.m. at Mentor Park Mall, upper level in the food court. For more info call 908-964-0444.

BELLE MEAD—The Rights of the Mentally III: Following a Swinging Pendulum, will be presented from noon to 1 p.m. in the Atkinson Amphitheater at Carrier Foundation. For more info call 908-281-1481.

NEWARK—The Northern NJ Maternal/Child Health Consortium hosts "Immigrant Health Care: Contemporary Issues" from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more info call 201-643-7400.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Eric B. Chandler Health Center, UMDNJ, hosts free immunizations for children 2 months and over. For more info call 908-235-6722.

ASBURY PARK—Jersey Shore Medical Center hosts the Asbury Park Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Asbury Park Boardwalk. For more info call 908-776-4242.

ENTERTAINMENT

Toni Braxton says 'Thanks'

by Kelly Howard



Songstress Toni Braxton takes time for a quick snapshot with City News reporter Kelly Howard at the recent luncheon sponsored by the star.

NEW YORK—Letting others know that what they do, and the support they give helps in keeping pleasant relations between people. As a gesture of thanks to the many media people that have supported her since her debut album, Toni Braxton recently held a luncheon rendezvous for industry people.

Members of print, radio and television entered Jacob's, the swank southern-styled restaurant, for an afternoon delight. As they were welcomed by staff members and Braxton's label publicists Jackie Rhinehart and Laloyce Hunter, they were entertained by the premiere of Braxton's latest single, *Unbreak My Heart*.

As guests mingled and networked, waiters and waitresses served the first of what would be many delectable goodies. Hors d'oeuvres of chicken livers and jumbo shrimp cocktail tantalized the palate.

The informal gathering and wonderful food was enhanced by the music of Braxton playing softly, and the southern, genteel setting of the restaurant. Braxton's video, featuring the mega-superstar Tyson, continually entranced a group standing by it.

When Braxton entered the restaurant, her warm, friendly smile lit up the place. As her guests dined on entrees

of succulent broiled salmon, satsumaru Carolina shrimp Creole and sa-vory honey chicken, Braxton went from table-to-table sitting and chatting, and taking pictures.

Relaxed and very friendly, her sweet personality showed that the luncheon was definitely keeping in her nature.

With her self-titled first album, Braxton established herself as the "First Lady of LaFace," and one of this era's best R & B singers. Taking the musical elements that made her the star she is, adding maturity and growth

as an artist, *Secrets*, Braxton's sophomore album, is reaffirming her status. Working with Babyface and Bryce Wilson, of Groove Theory, on the album's first release, *You're Making Me High*, Braxton showed off a stronger, funkier side that captured even more fans.

This 12-track album, filled with soulful ballads and upbeat jams, features Braxton writing lyrics for one and co-writing for another. It is definitely no secret that Braxton's success lies in her singing skills, ability to grow, and her friendly, down-to-earth nature.

Shakur received national attention with his mega hit single *Keep Your Head Up*, on his first album *21 Papaye Now* and co-starring with Janet Jackson in *Poetic Justice*. He recently wrapped up filming on a new movie, *Gridlock*, and his current album, *All Eyes on Me*, has sold more than four million copies.

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Got news? We want to hear it. Call us at 908-754-3400 or fax story ideas in to 908-753-1036

Sizzling singles

Look what's new in CDs

by Kelly Howard

Island Inspirational All-Stars-Don't Give Up (Island Black Music)

Take all the new gospel stars, an issue that is tugging at the heart strings of all—church burnings—and a record label that cares, *Don't Give Up* the latest gospel single from Island Black Music, featuring Hezekiah Walker, Kirk Franklin and the Family and Karen Clark. Was made to reach out to those suffering from the church burnings, and bring in funds to help rebuild. At a time when all are struggling to understand "why," this record, with its upbeat tempo, inspires hope.



Az Yet - Last Night (LaFace Records)

R & B male groups have been coming in and out ever since Boyz II Men blew up. Az Yet is a definite plus to what is already out there. Their sweet, sensual love song *Last Night*, is exploding on the air, and is quickly becoming an anthem for lovers.

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Nkeka - Say It Again (Island Black Music)

Adding a fresh new sound to R & B, Nkeka's soulful singing style is turning heads all over. *Say It Again*, featured of the Eddie soundtrack, shows of the strong vocal ability of this young lady. Nkeka tempts her listeners with



the promise of what more she can offer.

Charisse Arrington - Down With This (MCA Records)

Funky is the way to be *Down With This*. Charisse Arrington, while showing off sassy and soulful vocals is taking charge of her place in the music world. With bass thumping vibes, the original and five remixes are definitely going to be radio hits in no time.

BillBoard

SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14

WATCHUNG—Love Letter will be performed at the Watchung Arts Center for two performances only at 8 p.m. For more info call 908-753-0190.

SEPTEMBER 13 AND 20

NEWARK—The Priority Restaurant presents Bright Moments with Yahya from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 201-242-8012.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

NEWARK—The Priority Restaurant presents Bright Moments with Yahya from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 201-242-8012.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

WAYNE—William Paterson College's new music festival opens with a performance by the Contemporary Chamber Players of Stony Brook at 8 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts. For more info call 201-556-5271.

SEPTEMBER 17 THRU OCT. 13

NEW YORK—The Brooklyn Academy of Music announces its 1996 Next Wave Festival as part of the BAM 135th Anniversary Season. For more info call 718-636-4129.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

PLAINFIELD—Gail Lou will present a skit and sing-along, "The Play's the Thing" in the Cafeteria of Union County College, Plainfield Campus from 6 to 8 p.m. For more info call 908-965-2669.

Tupac Shakur dies from gunshot wounds

by Terrence L. Dixon

LAS VEGAS—According to reports, Hip-Hop artist, Tupac Shakur, died at 4:03 p.m. on Friday, September 13, in Las Vegas, from injuries sustained during a drive-by shooting. He had undergone two surgeries, including the removal of one of his lungs, and was placed in a medically-induced coma prior to his death.

Shakur and Death Row Records Chairman Marion "Suge" Knight were driving to a night club after attending the Mike Tyson-Bruce Seldon heavy-weight title fight, on Saturday, September 7. According to Las Vegas



police, a car of four people pulled along side of Knight's car at a busy

intersection on the Las Vegas Strip; one of the people sprayed Knight's car with bullets. Twenty-five-year-old Shakur was shot four times in the chest, and 31-year-old Knight, who was driving, suffered a head wound.

Greg McCurdy, spokesperson for the Metro Police, said it is unclear whether Shakur was specifically targeted or the unlucky victim of a random act of violence considering the rapper's past confrontations with others.

This is Shakur's second time being shot. In November 1994, he was shot five times in the lobby of a New York recording studio by robbers who

took more than \$40,000 worth of jewelry from him. Last Wednesday, at the MTV Music Awards in New York, he and six other friends got into an argument with a half dozen other men at Radio City Music Hall in which police had to intervene.

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Business Calendar

THRU SEPTEMBER 11

NEW YORK—Save the date to join for the 3rd Annual Circulation and Management Conference & Expo at the Sheraton Hotel & Towers. For more info call 212-879-0750.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

FREEDHOLD—National Seminars Group will help you learn "How to be a Successful Team Leader," at the Clarion Hotel at Edison Square. For more info call 1-800-258-7248.

SEPTEMBER 11 THRU 15

WASHINGTON, DC—The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. will meet. For more info call 202-675-8778.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

EDISON—National Seminars Group will help you learn "How to be a Successful Team Leader," at the Clarion Hotel at Edison Square. For more info call 1-800-258-7248.

ROSELAND—Regional Business Partnership's ongoing series continues with "Regional Economic Outlook Will Expansion Continue?" at the EagleRock Club, from 4 to 6 p.m. For more info call 201-942-8237, ext. 225.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

PARAMUS—National Seminars Group will help you learn "How to be a Successful Team Leader," at the Radisson Inn Paramus. For more info call 1-800-258-7248.

SEPTEMBER 14 THRU DEC. 14

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will offer a preparation course for the State of New Jersey Real Estate Salesperson's (Agent) Licensing Exam. For more info call 201-200-3089.

SEPTEMBER 18 THRU 20

CHARLESTON, SC—The National Association Contractors will sponsor an Asbestos Workshop at the Holiday Inn Charleston on the Beach. For more info call 202-347-8259.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

PLAINFIELD—The Urban Women's Center of the WCA of Plainfield/North Plainfield is hosting "How To Write the Perfect Resume" workshop at the WCA from 10 to noon. For more info call 908-758-3500.

The Quality Learning Series presents training via satellite from the US Chamber of Commerce, with "Competing in the Digital Economy" by Don Tapscott. For more info call 1-800-935-4730.

PNC Bank celebrates name change

by Myra A. Thomas

EAST BRUNSWICK—On Thursday, September 5, area business, social service and religious leaders turned out for a luncheon held to celebrate PNC Bank's official name change. Held at the Brunswick Hilton and Towers in East Brunswick, New Jersey, over 100 attendees listened to PNC Bank management describe the recent company merger with and subsequent name change from Midlantic Bank.

Garry Scheuring, vice-chairman of PNC, acted as the host for the luncheon. According to Scheuring, the recent merger with Midlantic Bank is the largest merger in PNC history. The formal merger with the holding company, Midlantic Corporation, was completed at the end of last year. This past July, PNC Bank began its first phase of branch conversion in its Pennsylvania offices. On this past Wednesday, the New Jersey branches opened under the new PNC banner, offering all of the PNC products and services.

The luncheon was also billed as an opportunity to meet PNC Chairman and CEO Thomas O'Brien. Addressing the crowd, O'Brien said the "people, culture and complementary products" led the bank to enter the New Jersey market. O'Brien listed treasury, cash and asset management as some of the enhanced services PNC Bank would bring to the Midlantic table.

In his address, O'Brien highlighted the bank's sponsorship of the



Thomas O'Brien, PNC CEO

newly renamed PNC Arts Center, formerly the Garden State Arts Center. Affirming a commitment to New Jersey, O'Brien said, "We (PNC) put money back into our communities." In concluding his short speech, O'Brien said that the main goals of PNC Bank would be "serving customers with a value-added program, and fulfilling a role as a corporate citizen."

Citibank, WHTD Tower Corporation and Radio Station, Millstone Township Board of Education, The Neighborhood Software International, the City of Paterson and Spencer Savings were just a few of the diverse business, social service groups and public groups in attendance for the luncheon event. A number of the state's African-American leaders were also in attendance at the PNC function, including Leniah Johnson (chair

of the NJ State Conference of NAACP), Lloyd Oxford (president of the Black United Fund of New Jersey), and Jonah Cooper, Jr. (owner and president of J. Cooper and Associates). Cooper said, "I started J. Cooper and Associates about three-and-a-half years ago, and now we act as consultants for several banks and numerous community-based organizations." In addition to serving on a PNC advisory council, Cooper does outreach to non-profit housing developers and other community groups on behalf of PNC, facilitating low-cost housing development.

Malachia Brantley, head of Brantley Brothers, an African-American owned moving company based in Newark, was also in attendance at the luncheon. Also in attendance was the Reverend Dr. Willie Simmons, president of the United Community Corporation, one of the largest and oldest anti-poverty programs in Newark. Both Brantley and Reverend Simmons serve on PNC Bank's Community Reinvestment Group.

PNC Bank is now the third largest bank in both New Jersey and greater Philadelphia in terms of market share, operating 255 offices, 243 ATM's, and 339 off-premise ATM's in New Jersey, and 119 offices, 139 on-site ATM's, and 306 off-premise ATM's in Philadelphia and four in nearby Pennsylvania counties. With headquarters based in Pittsburgh, PNC Bank Corporation is one of the largest financial services organizations in the U.S., with banking subsidiaries in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Massachusetts, and Florida. A publicly held company, PNC specializes in consumer and corporate banking, mortgage banking, real estate banking and asset management services.

Nissan promotes education development



Pictured above, the 1996 Nissan-HBCU Summer Institute Fellows participated in a faculty development program at Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management. The focus of the week-long institute was strategic consumer marketing. (Below) Nissan Motor Corporation, vice president Jerry Florence (2nd from I), discussed corporate social responsibility with several 1996 Nissan-HBCU Summer Institute Fellows. The Institute provided business faculty with the opportunity to attend professional workshops and lectures to help enrich curriculum at HBCUs.



Multicultural Affairs Congress targets minorities

PHILADELPHIA, PA—Gail Baker Woods will be the keynote speaker for the next Multicultural Affairs Congress (MAC) professional development seminar scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Presenting concepts from her new book entitled *Advertising and Marketing for the New Majority*, Dr. Woods will provide new ideas, tactics and research data for targeting the major ethnic markets in the U.S.

The conference is open to any company that is interested in effectively targeting their marketing efforts toward black, Hispanic or Asian consumers.

Participants will gain new insights into some of the fastest growing consumer markets in the country.

Leslie Doggett, of the U.S. Department of Commerce, will open the seminar. This event is one in a series of professional development seminars presented by the Hospitality Managers committee of the Multicultural Affairs Congress.

Gail Baker Woods is currently the chair of the Public Relations Department at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications. Registration information for the seminar can be obtained by calling 215-636-3478.

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** The after-tax examples assume a 28% tax bracket; your after-tax advantage may differ from the examples shown.

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Entrepreneur Business Expo at the Hilton Hotel in Newark N.J. September 28, 1996. **FREE ADMISSION.** For registration or advertisement write or call (908) 686-2288.

RELIGION

Religious Calendar

THRU SEPTEMBER 20
VIRGINIA—Revised events of the Christian Broadcast Network will be held from 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. For more info call 804-579-2456 or 804-641-6241.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
NEWARK—The First Mt. Zion Baptist Church will have a prayer breakfast at the Church at 9 a.m. as a prelude to their Annual Men and Women's Day. For more info call 201-242-4173.

STIRLING—The Fourth Annual "Country Fun Festival" will be held at the Shrine of St. Joseph from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 908-647-0206.

ASBURY PARK—The Nation of Islam's Asbury Park study group presents "An Evening with the Righteous" at the Continental Ballroom of the Berkeley Carriani Hotel from 5 to 9 p.m. For more info call 908-988-0420.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
NEWARK—First Mt. Zion's Annual Men and Women's Day will commence at 11 a.m. with Sister Ann Franklin, the First Lady of First Baptist Church in Vauxhall as guest speaker.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
NEW BRUNSWICK—The NAACP Manhattan Area Branch cordially invites you to an Inspirational Outreach Concert at Nicholas Music Center at 7:20 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
NEW BRUNSWICK—The Presbyterian Church at New Providence is pleased to present "Michael Card and John Michael Talbot Live in Concert" at New Providence High School at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-665-0138.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
BELLEVILLE—Paradise Baptist Church will hold their First Annual Pastor's Reception honoring Rev. James J. at Branch Brook Manor from 7 to 11 p.m. For more info call 908-824-9735.

Rice Bill to toughen penalties for voter fraud

NEWARK—New Jersey State Senator and Newark City Councilman Ron Rice (D-Essex) is angry. Rice is steamed about what he perceives as the prevalence of voter fraud and the leniency with which those convicted of the crime are sentenced.

Four East Side High School educators—Fred Engel of Branchburg, Terese Capriglione of West Orange, Pasquale Raimondo of Livingston and Philip Maravaglia of Union—convicted for their roles in the rigging of a 1992 Newark school board election, were each sentenced on Thursday, September 5, to two years probation.

For Senator Rice, that case is just one of many in a long list of corruption in Newark and epitomes how that behavior is conducted and tolerated within the city.

"This happens too much," Rice stated. When the senate convenes on September 19, the senator plans to introduce legislation that would make voter fraud at least a second degree criminal offense with mandatory sentencing guidelines.

"These people aren't just liars and cheaters. They cost the taxpayers money. They influence who makes decisions, who gets contracts, who keeps the dividends from their illegal activity. Worse than that, they undermine the very process on which this country was founded," Rice reported.

Senator Rice remarked that there is well documented history of voter corruption in Newark and he wants it stopped. "It is a pattern of abuse that is perpetuated by the low regard in which the system and the citizens are held," he said.

Lawyers for the convicted quartet have filed motions seeking to have their clients keep their jobs. Raimondo is chairman of the math department at East Side, Maravaglia is vice-principal, Engel is a business teacher and Capriglione is a guidance counselor.

"The people convicted in this latest crime were not from Newark. It was just a place for them to collect a paycheck. The very nature of their crime suggests that they don't care about the kids, the city, or the people their illegal activities affected."

"You can bet that if they tried it in West Orange, Branchburg, Union, or Livingston—where they live—government officials, the judiciary and the people in those communities would have their heads," the senator fumed.

"But in Newark we debate about whether they get to stay in the school system. How absurd is that? They're still being paid by the tax dollars of the people they tried to defraud."

Pastor Thomas: bringing hope for 28 years

NEWARK—Reverend Charles Everett Thomas celebrating 28 years of service to New Hope Baptist Church as the church embarks on a new beginning. A native of Montgomery, AL, the young Everett Thomas received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Selma University in August 1950. After acknowledging his calling to the Ministry, he entered the American Baptist Theology Seminary in Nashville, TN where he received a Bachelor's degree in Theology. He received an honorable doctorate degree from the Urban Bible Institute of Detroit, MI.

In June 1957, Rev. Thomas was called to pastor the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Woodbury, New Jersey, where he served until June 1963. Later that same year, he was called to the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark and began his pastorate on August 6, 1968.

Evident in Pastor Thomas' ministry has been a strong commitment to both church and community. In January 1972, Rev. Thomas' first major project was the formation of the New Hope Day Care Center, which was housed in the church's dining room and was later relocated to 111-119 Sussex Avenue. The Center is now a



Pastor Charles Everett Thomas

successful operation and renders services for 66 children year-round, on a daily basis. The building is also the projected site for New Hope's Christian Academy grammar school scheduled to open in Fall 1997.

Pastor Thomas also administers the development of the Minority Contractors' and Craftmen's Trade Association and the New Hope Skills Center. These programs trained men in carpentry, masonry and machinery and enabled them to pursue careers in those fields. During this same period, he re-organized the Scholarship Fund at New Hope. This fund provided financial assistance to any person who is a member of New Hope and has the desire and ability to attend college.

Under Rev. Thomas' pastorate, the congregation continued to grow and in 1985 Pastor Thomas began to implement his dream of enlarging the church edifice. On September 13, 1987, the members of New Hope Baptist Church marched back into a \$2,300,000 edifice with seating for over 1,200. On September 15, 1996 New Hope celebrated the burning of the mortgage.

Rev. Thomas has also been active in the Progressive Baptist Convention and has served as both president and vice president, serving two years in each position.

The Black Church Network initiates voter registration drive

WASHINGTON, DC—As election day nears, direct student loans, Medicare, Head Start, and Affirmative Action are just a few of the programs and policies that are on the political chopping block.

Tapping into the spiritual strength of the black church in the community, Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy head of the Black Church Communications Network, Inc. (BCCN) is launching a voter registration drive, to get blacks registered to vote and actually vote on election day.

Fauntroy, a former U.S. Congressman and pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Washington, DC, is seeking church members who want to enlist in BCCN's "Gideon Army." "The Gideon Army" plan is designed to identify one million black voters from among

the pool of 27 million church-goers who would be willing to take the names of five non-registered voters, help them to register before October 5, and take them to the polls to vote on November 5.

"Just as we have fought back to stem the tide of church burnings, we can fight on November 5 to stem the tide of the public policy assaults on the quality of life for our people," says Fauntroy.

He adds, "Our votes on that day can send a message to politicians at the local, state, and national levels that they will pay a price for continuing the assault on health, education, job placement and training, affirmative action, and public assistance programs that deprive blacks and other minorities of an improved quality of life."

Bethel Presbyterian gets new library

PLAINFIELD—After a year of planning, Bethel Presbyterian Church located at 300 East Fifth Street in Plainfield formally dedicated its new church library on Saturday, September 14. Former Bethel ministers Rev. Leonard Bethel and Rev. Robert Newbold accompanied current minister Rev. Darrell A. Van Pelt in the dedication services.

"This library, the first for the church, will support the mission and the ministry of the church and will make available books and other material that will strengthen the teaching, preaching and evangelistic efforts of Bethel," stated Rev. Van Pelt.

The reverend added that the facility will also help individuals to enhance their cultural horizons. To donate books, magazines, educational and religious records, tapes and other materials call the church at 908-757-5390.

Cross of Life Lutheran Church
1240 East 7th Street Plainfield 908-755-6788

If you don't have a church home, why not try us??
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ
—Children/Youth Center
Located across from the Armory—Just east of Leland Ave.
Parking is in the rear—Please join us!
The Rev. Carol A. Lindsay, Pastor

NAACP state convention set for September 27 to 29

NEWARK—New Jersey State Conference of NAACP Branches will hold its 74th Annual State Convention on September 27 through 29, at the Radisson Hotel-Newark Airport, according to State President Elaine Harrington.

This year's celebration theme, "Our New Day Begins," will focus on the new administrative leadership of the National Association and the renewed involvement of the NAACP. According to Harrington, Myrlie Evers-Williams, national board chairperson, now serving for her second term, and Kweisi Mfume, president/CEO of the "New Day" during the recent National Convention.

Some of the organization's new initiatives include NAACP Internet capabilities, an inclusive Civil Rights agenda, revised administrative functions at the National Headquarters, and a re-commitment to the Association's Voter Empowerment Project (VEP).

The State Conference will echo these basic initiatives during its convention. A series of workshops has been planned for all participants, including Criminal Justice, Economic Empowerment, Branch Administration, Education, and Political Action.

During the Plenary Session on Saturday the 28th, at 9 a.m., Annual Board Member and Image Awards Chair, Joseph Madison, will deliver the Keynote Address. Hazel Dukes, National Board Member and President of the New York State Conference of NAACP, will keynote the Awards Banquet, slated for 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Several NAACP Awards will be presented, including: State Regional Branch Awards; Rosa Parks Branch Secretary Award; State Youth Unit Award; and State Community Service Citizenship Award.

A complete program of the Youth and College Division will be incorporated during the entire convention session. One of the highlights of this program will be a Mini-Seminar, "Elections '96: What They Mean to Young Americans." Student representatives from the full array of NJ Colleges and Universities have been invited to attend and support NAACP's Youth and College Unit in its efforts to "Get-Out-The-Vote" in November. Distinguished leadership and panelists will be on hand to conduct the Seminar. Delegates are urged to arrive early on Friday for the Opening Business Session at 1 p.m., workshops at 3 p.m. and the Corporate-Delegates' Reception at 8 p.m. Hotel reservations should be made immediately with the Radisson. For ticket reservations contact Anita Y. Lockerman at 908-364-6389.

"ON NOV. 5TH, I'M VOTING FOR MY KIDS."



Every day of your child's life depends on whether or not you vote.

And, whether or not you vote for Clinton/Gore.

If you don't, the Dole-Gingrich Republicans may get the chance to continue cutting, slashing and eliminating the things that are important to you and your family. They've already voted to cut school lunches. Limit child immunization programs and Head Start.

You've got the power to stop them.

President Clinton is meeting the challenges of raising a family, protecting our values. He pumped nearly \$800 million into Head Start • Expanded Child Immunization and access to quality Health Care • Supported School Lunches • Is fighting crime in public housing • Working to prevent teen pregnancy • Reduced violence and drug abuse in school • Passed the toughest Crime Bill ever.

President Clinton is dealing with the hard issues. But he can't continue to do it without your vote.

On Nov. 5th vote for the people you care about.

Fold for the Democratic National Committee. Authorized by Clinton/Gore '96 General Committee, Inc.

Beth Israel hosts women and violence workshop

NEWARK—Patty Lue Goff, C.S.W., D.V.S., director of The Safe House in Belleville, will be the guest speaker during a workshop on Friday, September 20, at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. The workshop will be titled "Violence in Women's Lives," and is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by the medical center's International Women's Day (IWD) Committee, the workshop, to be held in the medical center's Danzels Auditorium, beginning at 9:30 a.m., is the first in a series that will focus on issues of particular interest to women.

Additional workshops will be held during the next one being held in December with a focus on women and depression. For additional information call Michelle Weiss at 201-926-7846.

City News wants to hear from you. Send in your religious news, calendar events, church outings, gospel concerts, etc.

VOTE 96
CLINTON/GORE
IT'S TOO IMPORTANT NOT TO.

Reflections on 14 years

September marks the 14th Anniversary of City News, chronicling the New Jersey's black community. We've taken this time to let you, the reader, get to know us and to restate the mission of City News. We thank you for your support over the years and look forward to increasing our service to you.



Jan and Henry Johnson

An interview with Henry and Jan Johnson, publisher and editor-in-chief of City News:

Why was Plainfield Today founded?

Henry: We started Plainfield Today because we wanted to talk about the positive things that were going on in Plainfield. Most of the news that we read in the daily papers were focusing on the negative things that were happening in the city. We met a lot of different people who were doing positive things and we felt that people should know that.

Jan: There was a new spirit in Plainfield. It was a spirit of rebuilding the Plainfield Historic Districts. There was a new mayor, Everett C. Latimore, the first African-American mayor in Plainfield. There were a lot of positive things going on in Plainfield at the time. I knew this because I was the public information officer for the City at the time. In talking with Henry, we decided that a newspaper would be a good way to communicate that we were all on the same page in developing Plainfield.

Was it well received in the community?

Jan: It was well received; it was the first time that people actually had info they could point to and proudly say "I live in this city, I'm a member of this community, and this community is moving forward."

Henry: When we started PT, our goal was to have a community newspaper for Plainfield. We expanded our coverage in 1990 after the recession because it was hard to get advertising just in our local base. We expanded to larger cities. Our goal then changed to where we would focus on African-American happenings, achievements, and issues throughout New Jersey's communities. Many of these communities had papers that only covered the broader community. At that time, we felt there was a real need to link the African-American communities, so that they begin to cross-fertilize each other in terms of the positive things that were happening.

Henry: The expansion was part of our long-term growth strategy. We had to expand to attract advertisers.

Jan: We also noticed that there was a major void in our major city in New Jersey—Newark. Because Newark is a predominantly black city, with mayor, school board members, council members, and the school system being predominantly African American and Hispanic, we felt there needed to be something going on speaking to the issues and concerns of that population in our major city. And that's what we attempted to do over the past 14 years, albeit limited resources. One time Mayor Sharpe James said "So goes Newark, so goes the rest of the world particularly the rest of New Jersey." We believe that to be the case. We all have a vested interest in seeing that Newark works and that all our African American cities work for that population. If they work for African Americans its going to work for the rest of New Jersey.

How have you seen the African American community change since you've been in New Jersey?

Jan: Since we've been here, I have seen a trend that is occurring throughout the country. I've seen a downward spiral of hopes and aspirations in our cities. I've seen more and more of our cities abandoned for the suburbs. Taking the jobs and other things necessary to make communities whole, out of those urban communities. I've seen a lack of commitment to make our school children the best and to provide them with the best education.

Who's to blame? I don't know. But, I do know it will take everyone working together to stop this downward trend. And to start people believing that there is hope in our urban communities. We've heard lip service given to it. The governor made a statement about revitalizing the urban communities. We've heard President Clinton talk about one of our best markets is in the urban

communities. But yet, we haven't seen the kind of resources marshaled in these urban communities to turn them around. For example, we've seen a lot of resources going to foreign countries where everyone hopes that this will be our next economic boom. No one is looking at the potential boom right in their own backyard.

Henry: I think ten years ago there was much more sense of hope and enthusiasm and excitement that things were moving forward and that there was a real ability to change things. With that spirit, there use to be more of a coming together to talk about how people could make a difference. There was more of a sense of community. Over the last 10 years, I've seen that dissipate. The older generations who created that society have reached the age where they are not as active. There hasn't been a younger generation who has come in and recreate that society. You see this trend in Plainfield, Newark and other urban centers.

Many middle class blacks are moving to the suburbs, how does City News reach-out to blacks living in the suburbs?

Jan: Many of the suburban people still work and do many things within urban communities. I still think our paper remains very relevant. It talks about the positive things they do. Although, you may live in Summit, you still may mentor students in Newark, and you would probably be visiting the Newark Performing Arts Center getting ready to open. We are not only trying to capture the urban spirit, but also the human spirit in City News. That human spirit transcends where you live. It talks about who you are as a person and what people do to raise the quality of where they live, work, shop and visit.

The Million Man March was one of the more significant events during this decade, how have you seen it impact on the communities that City News covers?

Henry: The Million Man March was significant because it showed African American people coming to Washington, DC, primarily all men, in the interest in coming together for themselves. It came at a time when America was literally attacking the black male in America. African Americans were being attacked throughout the press. Affirmative Action was being attacked. The Republican Party launched an all out campaign to discredit African Americans. The Million Man March stopped and turned much of that around. How is it translated in the communities remains to be seen? But, there are several stories of people who have come back and gotten more involved in their communities.

We came back and launched the City News 100 Most Influential. Some people will make personal commitments for change and progress, others make public things happen.

What was the purpose of the "100 Most Influential?"

Jan: The purpose was to honor people who have made an impact on the progress of black folk or the urban centers in New Jersey where many black folk live. Some people doubted that we'd find 100? We proved that there were 100 people in New Jersey and that there are hundreds more like them going on either quietly working to change things or those New Jersey Corporations and businesses making significant decisions that will have a major impact on New Jersey's African American communities.

It brings to bare the best that New Jersey has to offer and it made us feel really good. It showed that evening. It was like magic. There was a sense of pride. And when the governor came and walked and talked and interacted with everybody, it showed people that there is a lot of power and potential in New Jersey when people come together over common things—the community was that they were all doing good things in New Jersey.

Henry: One corporate executive, who attended the event told me that this more than any other event, brought people together throughout New Jersey. There was a feeling that you were just there to relate and interact with people with no other agenda but to share in honoring some of New Jersey's best. He also said that it was just like old-home often seen in urban areas. I also think we have a posture of being neglect toward loiterers and littering. I think we should have a zero tolerance toward this sort of thing. We should bring these people under the letter of the law and force them to do community clean-up. We could clean up our cities and not increase taxes.

This year, the 100 Most Influential will take place on May 1, 1997. Last year, we had just about every county in New Jersey represented of those who are

trying to make a difference in their community.

There is an assumption that blacks are sitting back and doing nothing. The 100 shows that blacks are active, and others are trying to make a difference in urban areas.

What story has impacted you the most over the years?

Henry: The most dramatic was the Phillip Pannell story, about the young boy who was shot in the back by a police officer in Teaneck in 1990. We interviewed his mother and father. I went to the crime scene. I stood where the policeman stood. I stood where the young man was shot. Just reliving that experience was incredible. To see how anyone could have a pistol drawn on a 16-year-old kid and fire that gun, and then try to put the blame on the victim is absolutely beyond me. And, this is happening every day to our kids.

Jan: And then to have the lie corroborated by his fellow officers with the code of silence.

Henry: After you see things like Rodney King, it has been a perpetuation of criminals who are charged with protecting society and who largely committing crimes against blacks and are allowed to go free.

Jan: The story that stuck out to me the most, during our Plainfield Today years, was when the female police officer was shot in one of the Plainfield Housing Developments in Plainfield. We knew her. She was killed and murdered in cold blood.

Henry: That case reinforced to me how important our police officers are. How much they put themselves on the line all the time. Some 24-hours-a-day, they are at risk. This police officer was shot at point-blank range by a man while she begged him not to shoot, while other officers around him begged him not to shoot. I don't think cops should ever be alone.

Jan: In the past we have tried to show the positivity in our communities with loving, dedicated human beings. In the future City News will continue to advocate the progress of African Americans. We are not just an objective news gathering group. We advocate progress for blacks. We advocate education. We advocate economic development. We advocate moral behavior. We advocate beautiful cities and all those things that will tend to the quality of living in our communities. (Whether that means emphasizing the progress or really getting tough on the issues and with people who continue to keep our people down under the illusion of help, we're going to tackle those issues. We want the help of the community in pointing out the issues and helping us bring them to bare.

What are the top six issues facing New Jersey's black communities?

Henry: In our urban centers and predominantly black communities, the number one problem is the under-education of children. This under-education leads to more and more poverty and lack of productivity. It hampers the potential of economic development.

The second problem is related to economic development. We need to find a way to recreate the urban marketplace and to strengthen the base of economic development. That base can not be created if you do not have a workforce of people you can hire and bring into that economic base. If you improve education and economic development you can then impact upon the third problem, crime or safety.

The fourth problem deals with "quality of life issues," which pertain to the cleanliness of the city and the proliferation of loiterers and littering. This is often seen in urban areas. I also think we have a posture of being neglect toward loiterers and littering. I think we should have a zero tolerance toward this sort of thing. We should bring these people under the letter of the law and force them to do community clean-up. We could clean up our cities and not increase taxes.

The fifth concern is serious, dealing with help. Because of the low income and lack of medical care there is a high incidence of disease, the threat to the population is greater in inner-cities. We have to create prevention models for immunization, AIDS education, and other things that will help reduce this rising tide of health problems.

The sixth issue, deals with the morality issue. The morality issue is so significant because it governs the behavior and attitude of people. It is the negligent attitude and the behavior of degradation that is causing the urban affliction. The urban affliction is hitting young people particularly hard. Their minds have been poisoned by negative rap, sexually-explicit images in the media, and the lack of contributing to others. Adults have allowed young people to pursue nonsense and moral decadence promoted by the record industry so that they can make their executive wealth. It's what I call the "pied piper of rap" has led our kids out to be destroyed. They have to know that the music can be poisonous.

Some rappers have kept things positive and made successful careers out of rap. We have to recover our children from the "pied piper of gangster rap" and negative images.

Henry: Being involved in City News has helped us better understand what community is and what the role of everyone is in a community. Our goal is to rebuild our communities and our urban centers, like Newark and Paterson. We want to be a part of rebuilding those.



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Post shows 61 percent of New Jersey residents feel threatened by violence



I want to spend more time with my kids.
Reduce my debt.
Start saving for their future.
Plan for retirement.
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